

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Fristoe at the interview held February 29, 2008 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,575,272 to Harris; and claims 1-9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,699,351 to Wells. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for an infinitely variable directional valve with a seat slide that is separate from a control spring prior to energizing of a proportional magnet.

As discussed and agreed upon by Examiner Fristoe at the personal interview, Harris in Fig. 1 and at col. 2, lines 18-20 discloses that the spring 41 opposes the upward movement of the sleeve 26 and that the sleeve 26 is abutting the spring 41 when the coil 22 is de-energized. Furthermore, Wells discloses in Fig. 1 and at col. 3, lines 48-50 that the return spring 62 functions to bias the valve disk 32 (part of valve assembly 30) in a closed position when the coil 98 is de-energized. Thus, Harris and Wells fail to disclose the above-mentioned feature of independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RHR

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: February 29, 2008

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